

one occasion two of her admirers• called and were shown into a room from which they heard her harpsichord and voice, accompanied by Mr. Jefferson's violin and voice in the passages of a touching- song. Whether something in the words or in the tone of the singers offered suggestion to them, tradition does not say, but it does aver that they took their hats and retired to return no more on the same errand." Jefferson was happy in his marriage. His wife was a woman distinguished by charms of mind and person, and she received from her husband an affection that was deep and imperishable.

GETTING UNDER WAY AS A STATESMAN.

The Convention that assembled in Williamsburg in August, 1774, in response to the call of the coterie of patriots that had in May met at the Raleigh Tavern was the first extra-legal representative body that met in Virginia. Among its members were Peyton Randolph, Patrick Henry, Benjamin Harrison and the Lees. Jefferson was chosen to represent Albemarle County, but on his way to Williamsburg he was taken ill and was prevented from attending. His influence in the Convention, however, was exerted through a document which he had prepared and placed in the hands of Randolph and Henry. This was the celebrated "Summary View of the Rights of British America"—a composition intended to form, the basis of instructions to the delegates from Virginia in the Continental Congress. The manuscript was inspected by the members of the Convention, and was found to contain so much that was vigorous and convincing that it was printed at Williamsburg at private expense, without the knowledge of the author and without his name appearing. It was quickly reprinted in Philadelphia and also in London. The "Summary View" was probably the most important political pamphlet published at the South in the early days of the Revolution. It was Jefferson's aim to "set a pace that would bring the front and rear ranks of his fellow countrymen together." These "Instructions" show that his pace was a pretty rapid one, for they breathe the spirit of independence in every paragraph.